



# 67 ideas for spreading a love of stories and reading on Mandela Day – and every day!



Putting stories at the heart of your school

# At your school and reading club



1. Read stories about Nelson Mandela to the children. Find books suitable for the age group of the children at your club and/or in your class. Or read them the story, *Mr Hare meets Mr Mandela* from the "Story & rhyme library" on Nal'ibali's website or mobisite.
2. Choose stories with characters who are kind to others to read aloud to the children. Spend time talking about the characters, their choices and actions.
3. Encourage children to write or tell their own stories that have characters in them who help someone else for no reward – they help just because they want to! These stories could be about real people they know or imaginary characters.
4. Create a "compassion wall" at your school or reading club. Encourage the children to draw pictures and write down words, poems, slogans and paragraphs that show different things people can do for each other and how this makes everyone feel. Display the children's work on the wall.
5. Choose 67 stories to tell before Mandela Day next year. For children's stories in a language of your choice, visit the "Story & rhyme library" on the Nal'ibali website or mobisite.
6. Encourage the children to make posters using the following slogan: **Take action for a better world**. Then display their posters!
7. Take the children to your local library and get them signed up as members so that they experience the joys of borrowing books. Before you go, remember to find out what documents the children will need to bring with them.
8. Give a story as a gift to each child at your reading club or in your class. Choose from the stories available in the "Story & rhyme library" on the Nal'ibali website. Try to find and print a different story for each child that matches their interests.



Find stories to read, and advice and ideas to help you, on Nal'ibali's website ([www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)) and mobisite ([www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)).



9. Make blank books for the children to use to create picture books for younger children at your club or school, or for one another. They can get ideas from other storybooks, or they can compose, write and illustrate their own stories. Once finished, invite the children to share their stories with each other.
10. Experiment with words. Give each child a few slips of paper and ask them to write a different word on each slip. They can write down any word, for example, happy, egg, train, jumped, giggled. Put all the slips in a box. Next, each child picks a word out of the box and reads it aloud (or you can do this for them). In small groups, they can make up stories using the words they chose. Their stories should be linked to the themes of Mandela Day and giving to others.
11. Create something together! Look at stories that the children have written previously. Choose one sentence from each of the children's written stories and put them together in a way that makes a whole new story.
12. Write your own story. It doesn't have to be perfect or well-written. It can even be a short summary of your day. Share your story with the children. By doing this, you are being a role model of how to use writing to communicate. This will motivate the children to do the same.
13. Suggest that the children write a poem using only 67 words about caring for others or giving to others!
14. Lead a story flashmob! Use the element of surprise! Choose a place in your community where you know there are usually many parents and children. Gather the children from your class or reading club and some adults who love stories, and surprise the passers-by with a pop-up storytelling or reading session.



15. Get people to help you list and catalogue the books and stories in your classroom or school library, or at your reading club. Also let them help to create systems for displaying books attractively and for lending them out.
16. Spend 67 minutes making cut-out-and-keep books. You can download and print past editions of the Nal'ibali Supplement from the "Story supplies" section on the Nal'ibali website. Simply cut out and create the books to share with the children at your reading club or school, or give them to other schools in your community.
17. Spend time creating a print-rich environment at your reading club or in your classroom. Put up pictures, quotes from storybooks, and interesting words. Encourage the children to make posters by writing down the words of their favourite rhymes or songs. You don't need anything fancy to do this – just magazines, paper, kokis and some glue!
18. Take the children to an animal shelter to read aloud to the animals. Children who are shy to read aloud are often worried that they're being judged. Reading to cats and dogs allows children to feel safe and more



confident – and the animals enjoy the attention they get from the children!

19. Spend time creating a story bag to inspire children to tell stories. Collect small, everyday items at home or outside to put into a “story bag” (for example, small stones, a branch with leaves on it, pine cones, a sea shell, a doll, a puppet, a key, a sock). Later, children can take turns pulling out items from the bag, and making up stories using these items. They could tell these stories individually or in pairs.
20. Make blank books and turn them into “Once upon a time” books for the children. Once or twice a week in your classroom, or every time your club meets, have 10 minutes of “free” writing time. The children should use this time to write and/or draw whatever they feel like. The only rule is that what they write should begin with, “Once upon a time”. Afterwards, invite the children to share what they have written with others in their class or reading club, if they would like to.
21. Let older children at your school or reading club create short plays based on the stories in their favourite picture books, and

then perform the plays for the younger children on or around Mandela Day.

22. Invite a storyteller to your school or reading club to share their stories with the children. Then ask the children to pass on this story by sharing it with someone at home.
23. Translate a book you think the children will enjoy, but which is not available in their home language. Then share the book with them.



24. Get older children to find and share their favourite quotes by great men and women. Nelson Mandela may be one of them, but they can also find quotes by other people. The Internet is a good place to look and, if the children love a quote from a person they don't know, they can find out more about him or her too!

25. Develop your own understanding of how children learn to be readers and writers, and how to support them, by watching a literacy video on Nal'ibali's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/TheNalibaliChannel>.
26. Ask the children's parents and other caregivers to donate their time to your reading club or classroom on or around Mandela Day. Let them spend time reading and writing with the children, and teaching them games and songs that they know.
27. Find another reading club and partner with it! Support each other by swapping books and other resources, and arrange visits for the children to each other's clubs.
28. Let the children create a puppet show of their favourite story and then perform it for another class or the whole school!
29. Ask parents and other adults to join you for 67 minutes of work on or around Mandela Day. In this time let everyone help to make your classroom or reading club venue into a more inviting place by cleaning, painting, decorating, or helping to repair or cover books.
30. After Mandela Day, create a class or reading club newspaper in which you and the children report on all the things they did to commemorate Mandela Day.
31. Host a reading-for-enjoyment meeting or workshop for parents and other caregivers where you share with them what you know about reading aloud and telling stories to children. You can find information on reading aloud and telling stories in the "Story supplies" section on the Nal'ibali website.





- 32.** Ask children to volunteer to tell stories to other children at your school for a week. Get together with the volunteer storytellers beforehand to make “Ask me to tell you a story” badges that they can wear. The other children at school can approach the volunteer storytellers during the week and ask them to tell or read a story at break time, or before or after school.
- 33.** Encourage the children in your class or reading club to make books for babies and toddlers. (It’s best to use cardboard for these books so they do not tear too easily.) Let them take the books home to share with a baby in their family, or arrange for the children to give them to the babies who are visiting a local clinic with their mothers.
- 34.** Create a book notice board somewhere at your school. Encourage children to write book reviews and/or draw pictures about a book they enjoyed. Then display these on the notice board to help all the children discover books that they might want to read.
- 35.** Ask the children to choose one of their favourite stories from past Nal’ibali Supplements to cut out and take home as a gift for a friend or family member. (You can find past supplements in the “Story supplies” section on the Nal’ibali website.) Encourage the children to read this story to the person they give it to!

# Reaching out to others

1. Use what you know to help a reading club at another school or in your community. You could volunteer at the club, and/or donate books and stationery.
2. Post an article or short story that you enjoyed reading on your Facebook page so that others can enjoy it too.
3. When you share stories, it is a way of connecting with others. Take the children at your reading club or school to visit an old age home. Let them read or tell stories to the people who live there. Suggest that the children also ask the older people to tell them about some of their childhood memories.
4. Donate children's books you don't want any more to a pregnant woman you know. Literacy development starts at birth, so donate books and resources to expecting mothers to help them prepare a story-rich environment for their newborn babies.
5. If there is a children's home or orphanage nearby, arrange for the children in your club or class to visit there. Let them sing songs, say rhymes and read to the children.



6. Read to your children's friends. When they are at your home, make some time to sit with your children and their friends to share stories. This doesn't only have to happen on Mandela Day, but can happen throughout the year!
7. Start a Whatsapp or Facebook conversation with your friends about the role of reading and literacy in our lives. Give them some ideas and get a discussion going! You'll be amazed at what you could start.
8. Volunteer to read or tell stories to children at your local library and/or at a preschool.

9. Host a meeting with other people who run reading clubs, or with teachers who encourage reading for enjoyment in their classrooms. Suggest that you all share activity ideas and information about books that you've seen children enjoy. By building these relationships, you can support and encourage each other.
10. Having access to stories in a language you're comfortable in, is crucial in literacy development. Teach others how to access free stories in their languages. Nal'ibali offers FREE multilingual stories on its website and mobisite. Once you know how to access these stories, show others how to do this.
11. Inspire others by sharing what you do – whether it's by giving books to others, by inviting people to your club or classroom, or by helping them find resources.
12. You already have a network of people in your life – friends, family, community members, people on social media, colleagues at work, people at your children's school and so on. Become a literacy ambassador by talking to them about the roles that reading aloud, mother-tongue stories and reading for enjoyment play in children's development.
13. Visit a reading club where you can read to children, tell them stories, and drop off books and stationery – not just on Mandela Day, but on a regular basis. Children benefit from encounters with stories and books over time.
14. Organise a book-drive among your friends to collect or buy books that can be given away to schools or reading clubs that need them. Make sure to prioritise children's books in African languages since these are both scarce and much wanted. Look for books in bookshops, markets and charity shops. You can find tips on choosing books for children, in the "Story supplies" section on the Nal'ibali website.
15. Collect cushions, blankets and rugs or carpets and donate them to a reading club near you to create a warm, cosy environment that invites cuddling up to share a good story.

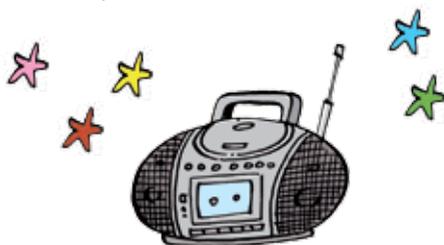


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16. If you have friends, relatives or people in your community who would like to join Nal'ibali's FUNda Leader Network, help them sign up and put them in contact with Nal'ibali. The bigger the network, the more change we can make together! Go to the home page on the Nal'ibali website or mobisite to find out more.
17. Share your reading-for-enjoyment experiences with people in your community and staff at your school. Show them your pictures and share your resources. You'll inspire people to become more involved in books and reading with their own children.
18. Find high school or university students to become involved in your reading club. Start with the older children or students in your own home or circle of friends. Explain how all it takes is an hour of their time to be mentors to younger children as well as positive reading role models.
19. Share what you're doing to help children grow a love of books and stories on the Nal'ibali Facebook page. Sharing your experiences, helps to inspire others.
20. Support a literacy organisation where you live or work by donating time or funds.
21. Invite friends and family to your home for an evening of snacks and storytelling. Invite everyone to read their favourite poem, or an extract from a book they enjoyed reading, or a piece of their own writing.
22. Choose some of the books that you have finished reading and ask your friends on Facebook or your colleagues at work which of these they would like to have for free!
23. When you are next in a bookshop buying a book for yourself, buy another book and offer it to someone you don't know as you pass them in the street or shopping centre!
24. Read a story to your fellow passengers when you're in a taxi, or on a train or bus.



25. Help the caregivers of babies and toddlers to start a regular group where they meet to say rhymes, sing songs and read books to their young children.
26. Practise what you preach and remember to read to your own children or grandchildren regularly. Try to set aside 15 minutes a day for this.
27. Write and then post reviews on your Facebook page of books that you've read to children. This helps others to learn more about which books children enjoy.
28. Sign up to be a member of the Nal'ibali network and you will be showing your support for using the power of stories to inspire children to want to read and write. You'll also receive a monthly newsletter! Go to the "Get involved" section on the Nal'ibali website.
29. Ask your local supermarket or shopping mall if they would be willing to give you some space once a month to read stories to the children of shoppers. Then round up a group of volunteers – older children and adults. Take some storybooks, paper, pens and crayons down to the supermarket or mall so that you can all share stories and have drawing and writing fun with children.
30. Over the next year, buy 67 copies of the newspaper that has the Nal'ibali Supplement in it and give them to different people who have children, but who might not be able to afford to buy the newspaper for themselves.
31. Get together with a group of teachers, parents and grandparents who are passionate about literacy and make posters that encourage others to make reading, writing and stories part of their daily lives. You could use slogans like, "Literacy involves everyone", "Read today and every day" and "Share your stories, share your culture".
32. Tell people about Nal'ibali's radio programmes where everyone can enjoy listening to children's stories in any of South Africa's eleven languages. Encourage people to listen with their children and then chat about the stories together afterwards. Find information about Nal'ibali's radio programme schedule in "Audio stories" which is part of the "Story & rhyme library" on the Nal'ibali website.



ENGLISH



We use the power of stories to inspire children to want to read and write. We are committed to sparking our learners' potential through storytelling and reading.

Nal'ibali is here to motivate and support you. **Contact us** by calling our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80**, or in any of these ways:



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